



BLUES AND SEAFOOD
INSIDE

NATIONAL BUSINESS WOMEN'S DAY
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Put down the cellphone and drive



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Kelly Browning speaks during the Criminal Justice Information Systems Users Workshop and Security Summit on Tuesday.

As distractions multiply, so do teen crashes

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

Honors students, football stars, cheerleaders, cool kids and the girl they called “granny at the wheel.” All share one thing in common: they are among the 4,000 teenagers who die each year in preventable car crashes, the No. 1 killer of teens in the nation.

In 2015, 3,829 teens lost their lives on the roadway — and only 25 percent of those were attributable to drinking or drugs. Fifty percent of teens killed were passengers.

“Most kids are not drinking and driving,” Kelly Browning, an expert on teen drivers, told an audience of about 270 criminal justice professionals at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center Tuesday. “We’re so beyond texting now. Now it’s selfies, carpool karaoke, video chatting, Snapchatting, Instagramming. Why is this so lethal? Because it takes all three distractions — the manual, the visual and most importantly, the cognitive. You’re not concentrating on driving.”

Browning is executive director of Impact Teen Drivers, a nationwide program confronting the dangers and consequences of reckless and distracted driving.

Distracted driving

Automobile collisions have been the leading cause of death for generations of American teens. But it wasn’t until 2009 that the term “distracted driving” was coined.

What drew Browning’s attention to the issue was a study in the early 2000s studying stress

TEEN DRIVING
Workshop material and further information for parents and teen drivers is available at www.impactteendrivers.org.

among California Highway Patrol officers.

“The most stressful part of their jobs, officers said, was responding to a scene where a young person had lost their life,” Browning said. “All because of something preventable: car crashes.”

She found there were many quality programs on impairment, but there was a void addressing distracted driving.

The stakes are getting higher. In 2015, there was a 7 percent increase in roadway fatalities in the U.S. In Oregon, the increase was about 25 percent and in Washington state, 23 percent.

Almost every young driver is vulnerable, she said. “I could have a kid say ‘I never text and drive,’ and two seconds later I’ll ask them if they’ve ever taken a picture while driving. ‘Oh, yeah, I’ve done that.’”

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BY THE NUMBERS

3,829

The number of teens killed on the roadways in 2015

25

percent increase in the amount of roadway deaths in Oregon in 2015. The increase was 23 percent in Washington.

25

percent of teen road deaths were attributable to drinking or drugs

50

percent of teens killed on the road were passengers

Mary Todd's up for change

For nearly half her life, the bar was an Astoria mainstay

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

After a quarter century as the name behind one of Astoria’s most famous haunts, Mary Todd said her life is heading in a new direction.

She recently put Mary Todd’s Workers Bar & Grill in Uniontown up for sale and is looking for someone to hopefully take over the business.



Mary Todd

“I want a little quieter” life, Todd, 56, said. “My whole life is going to be a little quieter now.”

Todd, who lives in one of the apartments above the bar, said she plans to find another

place in Astoria and spend some time traveling around the region to visit her children and grandchildren. A recovering alcoholic with more than five years sober, Todd said she will continue working with those suffering from addiction.

Mary Todd's

Todd was working at the Astoria Plywood Mill when it closed. She said she went looking for a job at a scary-looking bar in Uniontown, got hired and married the owner, the late Richard Todd. A year later, her name emblazoned the bar.

See **MARY TODD**, Page 14A

Oregon women have it tough

New report finds high rates of alcohol use, trauma, childcare costs

By CASEY PARK
The Oregonian

Oregon women have the nation’s highest rates of reported depression and heavy alcohol use. More than half say they have experienced sexual or domestic violence, one of the worst rates in the country, officials at a new Oregon foundation have found.

And Oregon is one of the least affordable states for working mothers to care for children, with a year of daycare now more expensive than annual tuition at a state university.

Officials at the new Women’s Foundation of Oregon say they hope the “Count Her In” report, released Wednesday, will be a wakeup call. It’s the first comprehensive look at Oregon women and girls in nearly two decades. And it is grim.

“When you read this list, it’s just irrefutable that Oregon has a problem with gender equity,” said Sue Hildick, president of the Chalkboard Project and the board chair for the new foundation. “And it’s deep.”

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Gov. Brown says Measure 97 needed to avoid big budget cuts

By PARIS ACHEN
Capital Bureau

PORTLAND — Gov. Kate Brown Wednesday defended her decision to support a corporate sales tax measure as the only viable alternative to deep cuts at state agencies and rollbacks to recent education and health care investments.

Deciding to endorse Measure 97 “truly was the most difficult decision I have ever made during my time in office,” Brown said.

The measure would levy a 2.5 percent gross receipts tax on certain corporations’ Oregon sales exceeding \$25 million and would represent the largest tax increase in the state’s

history. It would raise \$3 billion a year.

Voters will decide whether to pass the measure in the Nov. 8 election.

Brown made the comments during a full-house meeting of the Portland Business Alliance, in an appearance that one businessman described as walking into a “lion’s den.”

The alliance of nearly 1,900 businesses — similar to a chamber of commerce — has come out against the corporate sales tax measure and has dedicated much of its homepage to campaigning against the tax measure.

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Pamplin Media Group

Gov. Kate Brown says her endorsement of Measure 97, a controversial corporate tax proposal, “truly was the most difficult decision I have ever made during my time in office.”

